House Engrossed Senate Bill

FILED

JANICE K. BREWER SECRETARY OF STATE

State of Arizona Senate Forty-seventh Legislature Second Regular Session 2006

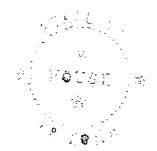
CHAPTER 249

SENATE BILL 1225

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 39-121.02, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)



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 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona: Section 1. Section 39-121.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to read:

39-121.02. <u>Action on denial of access; costs and attorney fees;</u> damages

- A. Any person who has requested to examine or copy public records pursuant to the provisions of this article, and who has been denied access to or the right to copy such records, may appeal the denial through a special action in the superior court, pursuant to the rules of procedure for special actions against the officer or public body.
- B. If the court determines that a person was wrongfully denied access to or the right to copy a public record and if the court finds that the custodian of such public record acted in bad faith, or in an arbitrary or capricious manner, the superior court may award to the petitioner legal costs, including reasonable attorney fees, as determined by the court.
- B. THE COURT MAY AWARD ATTORNEY FEES AND OTHER LEGAL COSTS THAT ARE REASONABLY INCURRED IN ANY ACTION UNDER THIS ARTICLE IF THE PERSON SEEKING PUBLIC RECORDS HAS SUBSTANTIALLY PREVAILED. NOTHING IN THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL LIMIT THE RIGHTS OF ANY PARTY TO RECOVER ATTORNEY FEES PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-341.01, SUBSECTION C, OR ATTORNEY FEES, EXPENSES AND DOUBLE DAMAGES PURSUANT TO SECTION 12-349.
- C. Any person who is wrongfully denied access to public records pursuant to $\frac{1}{2}$ the provisions of this article $\frac{1}{2}$ have HAS a cause of action against the officer or public body for any damages resulting $\frac{1}{2}$ therefrom FROM THE DENIAL.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MAY 1, 2006.

FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY 1, 2006.

